

Aurora key points and questions to consider

Key points

- Oppose the sale of Aurora
- Concern about losing control over future electricity supply and maintenance
- Risk associated with privatisation (past experiences with essential infrastructure, such as railway)
- Need to recognize Aurora's value and improvements despite maintenance costs
- Importance of retaining ownership to influence future infrastructure decisions
- Benefits of council ownership, such as preferential charges and maintenance of essential assets
- Potential disruption to services like street lights and water pumping stations under new ownership
- There is a general misconception that the general public think that Aurora is an electricity company so in their opinion they don't realise the consequences of the sale of Aurora.
- Anticipated price increases in electricity distribution services following reset of default prices in 2026
- Comparison with other New Zealand councils that retain ownership of essential infrastructure
- Please consider the long-term consequences and community input in the decision making process

Questions to consider

- What benefits do the council currently receive from owning Aurora, such as line charges or other perks?
- Who is responsible for maintaining city street lights, and who paid for the upgrade to LED lights?
- Does the council own the cables for the street lights, and what does Aurora charge for their maintenance?
- What about maintenance of pumping stations for water, sewerage, and stormwater?
- How are council-owned building like the Town Hall, pools, and stadium affected by Aurora's ownership?
- Would the council face higher rates or electricity costs under new ownership?
- How competitive are Aurora's rates compared to other line companies?
- Who owns the meters, and who pays for their renewals?
- Does the council have a comprehensive list of assets to be sold?
- Does Aurora own any land, or are there any surplus properties?
- What is the council's plan to future-proof electricity supply and infrastructure?
- Are there any hidden costs or considerations not being addressed in the sale discussions?
- How will the sale impact the council's ability to control future improvements and technological advancements in electricity supply?
- Is the council aware of the implications of the Commerce Commission allowing Aurora to recover significant costs from consumers?
- What preparations are being made for the reset of electricity distribution services default prices in 2026?
- How does the council plan to mitigate potential price increases and ensure affordability for residents and businesses?
- What steps are being taken to ensure community input and transparency in the decision making process?